

From the Planners' Bookshelf...

Urban Planning and Design Criteria, Second Edition

Joseph De Chiara and Lee Koppelman, Van Nostrand Reinhold Company, New York, 1975.

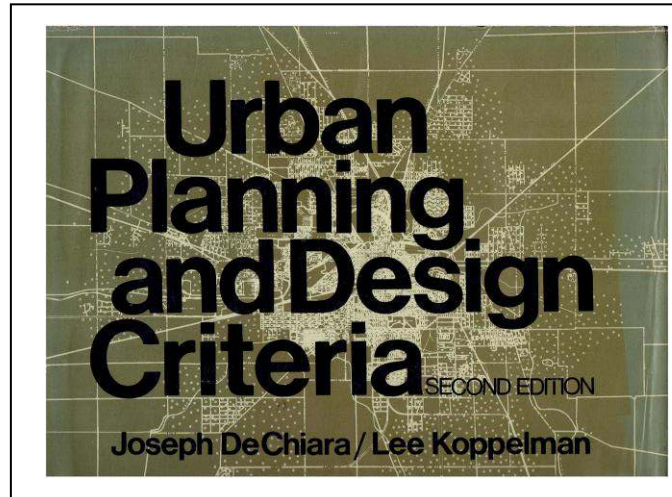
Summary.

If ever there was a book describing everything about physical spaces and facilities in a city, this would be it. Messrs. Chaira and Koppelman have assembled sketches, statistics and descriptions of a wide range of planning elements and physical facilities... quite an achievement.

The initial book was published in 1969, this second edition six years later. A third edition was published in 1981/82. While some of the ideas may be dated, the dimensions and statistics for the many facilities are still relevant. Ball field sizes have not changed. The populations of elementary schools may have, but this book gives a number to start with to be modified as you go along.

The authors describe processes for master plan studies and special studies, elements of urban design, physical and climatic characteristics, land use, population and housing studies.

They further describe the physical characteristics for vehicular circulation, air and rail transportation, education facilities, neighborhood and community facilities, parks and recreation, commercial development, industrial development, neighborhood units and new town concepts, public and private utilities and land development codes...all with statistics of sizes and service areas, drawings of layout and criteria for success.



Olindo Grossi, Dean, New York Institute of Technology says... "This volume may be characterized as being unique literature because it presents maximum useful information with concise graphic explanation."

The authors say... "Primarily, this material is to be used by the urban planner or related professionals to:

1. Establish a broad yardstick against which to measure specific proposals,
2. Establish preliminary area allocations, assist in establishing programs,
3. Clarify conflicting criteria related to various areas of activity, and
4. Provide significant base data to establish preliminary designs and layouts.

"Statements and criteria presented in this publication are applicable generally, to typical conditions and must be modified or even changed to meet specific conditions or requirements."